

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03596 011536Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 AID-05 DEAE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /083 W
-----033521 020611Z /15

R 011444Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, HO
SUBJ: NARCOTICS SCANDAL: THREE OFFICERS PUNISHED

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3484, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3044, (C) TEGUCIGALPA
2036

1. AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE DATED JULY 28 REPORTS THREE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRIED BY SPECIALLY APPOINTED MILITARY "TRIBUNALS OF HONOR". THE COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO THE JUNE 24 STATEMENT (REF B) REPORTING THE FINDINGS OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMISSION THAT NO MILITARY OFFICERS WERE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BUT ADMITTING THE INVESTIGATION HAD REVEALED "IRREGULARITIES" ON THE PART OF SOME OFFICERS.

2. MAJOR ARMANDO CALIDONIO AND LT. CARLOS COELLO WERE SUSPENDED FROM DUTY FOR TWO YEARS. CALIDONIO WAS FORMER NATIONAL INVESTIGATING POLICE (DIN) CHIEF WHILE COELLO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SAN PEDRO SULA OFFICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03596 011536Z

3. LT. JUAN ANGEL BARAHONA, FORMER HEAD OF THE INTERPOL UNIT, WAS DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY. BARAHONA'S CHARGES OF HIGH LEVEL MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE NARCOTICS SCANDAL (REF C) HAD BROUGHT ABOUT FORMATION OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION.

4. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE ARMED FORCES INSISTENCE THAT NO OFFICERS WERE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, IT IS WIDELY

ASSUMED THESE THREE ARE TAINTED. THEIR "IRREGULARITIES" HAVE NOT BEEN SPECIFIED PUBLICLY, ALTHOUGH BARAHONA'S SIN MAY BE SEEN TO HAVE BLOWN THE WHISTLE ON BROTHER OFFICERS, WHILE THE OTHER TWO APPARENTLY FACILITATED THE TRAFFICKERS EFFORTS. BARAHONA, WHILE NOT AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON, MAY GARNER SOME SYMPATHY. IN TERMS OF INFORMING THE PUBLIC, THE ARMED FORCES HAVE DONE THE MINIMUM POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A BELIEF DOING MORE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLY DAMAGING TO THE INSTITUTION. INCOMPLETE AS THIS HOUSE-CLEANING MAY SEEM, IT WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC AND HELP TO LESSEN CRITICISMS, AT LEAST AND UNTIL THERE ARE FURTHER REVELATIONS.

JARAMILLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCI03596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780315-0972
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808110/aaaadoqf.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93b41759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEGUCIGALPA 3484, 78 TEGUCIGALPA 3044, 78 TEGUCIGALPA 78
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1572205
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS SCANDAL: THREE OFFICERS PUNISHED
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93b41759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014